

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8046

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO

PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) MEETING SEPTEMBER 3, 1974

1. GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) MEETING CHAIRED BY U.S. AND ATTENDED BY REPS ALL MEMBERS AND OBSERVER MISSIONS EXCEPT AUSTRALIA, TOOK PLACE ON SEPT 3.

2. AGENDA COMPRISED (A) REVIEW OF RESULTS OF WORLD HEALTH
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ASSEMBLY AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN TERMS OF

GENEVA GROUP INTERESTS; (B) REVIEW OF 57TH ECOSOC IN SAME TERMS AND (C) REVIEW OF GENEVA GROUP ACTIVITIES TO DATE IN RELATION TO ITS WORK PLAN FOR 1974/75. IN ADDITION, A BRIEF PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON QUESTION OF DATE OF 12TH CONSULTATION ON SAS.

3. MEMBERS WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF WHA IN TERMS OF GROUP INTERESTS AND SHARED THE OPINION THAT THE GROUP, AND IN SOME INSTANCES, ITS MEMBERS COLLABORATING IN SMALLER GROUPS HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN INFLUENCING SEVERAL FAVORABLE DECISIONS. THE ONE GROUP FAILURE CITED WAS ITS INABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE WHA TO DISCONTINUE THE NON-APPLICATION OF MINUS POST ADJUSTMENT TO WHO EMPLOYEES.

4. ALTHOUGH GENEVA GROUP (ILO) HAD BEEN RELATIVELY LESS EFFECTIVE, THERE WAS A FEELING EXPRESSED, IN PARTICULAR BY JAPAN, THAT THE GENEVA GROUP-BASED RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MEMBERS HAD BEEN OF SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT AND THAT INFORMAL AND MORE OR LESS "UNOFFICIAL" MEETINGS HELD DURING THE SESSION HAD BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL. JAPAN ALSO REFERRED TO FURTHER GG (ILO) MEETINGS TO BE HELD THIS YEAR AND EXPRESSED WISH THAT GROUP MEET TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF STRUCTURES BEFORE THE ILO WORKING PARTY ON THIS SUBJECT MEETS IN OCTOBER. ALTHOUGH UK EXPRESSED SOME DOUBTS ABOUT APPROPRIATENESS OF THE STRUCTURE PROBLEM AS A GROUP TOPIC, JAPAN PRESSED THIS POINT AND IT WAS AGREED TO CONSULT GOVERNMENTS. (REQUEST DEPT COMMENTS.) IN THIS CONNECTION JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HAS INDICATED TO MISSION OFFICER, ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, THAT GENEVA GROUP SHOULD MEET TO CONSIDER STRUCTURE QUESTION. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT JAPAN SEES GENEVA GROUP AS THE TYPE OF FORUM FOR DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AS IS PROVIDED THE MEMBERS OF THE EC BY MEETINGS OF THE "NINE".

5. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT A MEETING OF GG (ILO) SHOULD BE HELD WITH ILO'S DENBY TO DISCUSS ILO BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 1976/77 AS SOON AS THAT IS PRACTICABLE. FRG REP STATED THAT DENBY HAD ADVISED HIM OF NEED FOR \$10 MILLION SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR CURRENT BIENNIAL AND A 76/77 BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY \$135 MILLION OR APPROXIMATELY 28 PERCENT OVER THE ULTIMATE 74/75 LEVEL (ASSUMING \$10 MILLION SUPPLEMENTARY APPROVED).

6. IN CONSIDERING ECOSOC DECISIONS, GROUP AGREED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBERS SHOULD ENDEAVOR KEEP PRESSURE ON ITU TO RESPOND TO CRITICISM VOICED BY GROUP MEMBERS DURING ECOSOC IN-DEPTH REVIEW. GENEVA GROUP COLLABORATION ON THE ECOSOC IN-DEPTH STUDIES OF THE SAS WAS CONSIDERED BY THE GROUP TO HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS.

7. GROUP NOTED WITH SATISFACTION ECOSOC DECISION RE INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CORE) AND AGREED THAT MEMBERS SHOULD SEEK SUPPORTING

LEGISLATION IN GOVERNING BODIES OF SAS.

8. UK RAISED QUESTION OF GROUP ACTION ON ECOSOC REVIEW OF RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENTS BETWEEN UN AND SAS INSOFAR AS THIS WOULD AFFECT GENEVA-BASED AGENCIES. IT WAS AGREED CONSULT GOVERNMENTS ON PROPOSITION THAT THE GROUP MIGHT ESTABLISH A SMALL WORKING PARTY TO DISCUSS WITH THE AGENCIES THEIR CURRENT REACTIONS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DEVELOPMENTS IN 57TH ECOSOC AND TO PREPARE A REPORT OF THESE REACTIONS. IT WAS FELT THAT SUCH REPORT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO GOVERNMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF ECOSOC'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR MID-FEBRUARY. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS MATTER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT 12TH CONSULTATION ON SAS WAS ALSO TO BE POSED TO GOVERNMENTS (WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S COMMENTS).

9. DISCUSSION OF THE THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA WAS A RELATIVELY ROUTINE RUN DOWN OF WORK DONE TO DATE. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE WORKING GROUP ON MEDIUM TERM PLANNING WOULD NOW BECOME MORE ACTIVE AND ENDEAVOR TO LEARN THE OUTCOME OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UN AND SA PLANNING OFFICERS NOW TAKING PLACE IN GENEVA TO CONSIDER THE BERTRAND REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT. ALSO THERE SHOULD BE A MEETING OF THE GENEVA GROUP (UNCTAD) TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF THAT GROUP.

10. GROUP NOTED THAT PROGRESS HAS YET TO BE MADE WITH RESPECT TO QUESTION OF EXCHANGING INFORMATION REPORTED BY POSTS IN THE FIELD ON ACTIVITIES UNDER COUNTRY PROGRAMMING.

11. ITALIAN REP APOLOGIZED THAT WORKING PARTY ON EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS INVOLVING HIGH EXPENDITURE HAD NOT MET AS YET BUT PROMISED TO CALL MEETING IN NEAR FUTURE.

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12. ATTENTION WAS CALLED TO THE UPCOMING WIPO MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 24 AND SEVERAL MEMBERS FELT A GENEVA GROUP MEETING, HOPEFULLY INCLUDING REPS FROM CAPITALS, SHOULD BE HELD PRIOR TO THIS SESSION (SEPT 23 WAS AGREED UPON).

13. THE GROUP ALSO AGREED ASK GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER DATES IN EARLY FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR THE 12TH CONSULTATION. U.S. INDICATED PROBABLY PREFERENCE FOR FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY. (DEPT COMMENTS REQUESTED.)

14. NEXT MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 23 TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF WIPO (PARA 12 ABOVE). GROUP MEMBERS HOPE TO COMMENCE CONSIDERATION OF 12TH CONSULTATION AND WOULD ALSO HOPE TO HAVE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED PARAS 4, 8 AND 13 OF THIS TELEGRAM. DALE

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